Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NEW DE 04701 031002Z ACTION NEA-10

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CONFIDENTIAL NEW DELHI 4701

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: IN, PFOR

SUBJECT: LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT FROM PRIME MINISTER DESAI

1. THERE FOLLOWS THE TEXT OF A LETTER DATED APRIL 2, 1977 TO PRESIDENT CARTER FROM PRIME MINISTER MORARJI DESAI. THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS HAS REQUESTED THAT THIS LETTER, WHICH RESPONDS TO THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER OF CONGRATULATIONS, BE TRANSMITTED TO THE WHITE HOUSE. THE EMBASSY WILL POUCH THE SIGNED ORIGINAL.

2. QUOTE. DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

I DEEPLY APPRECIATE YOUR WARM MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD WISHES ON MY ASSUMPTION OF OFFICE. INDIA SHARES WITH THE UNITED STATES A FIRM COMMITMENT TO THE FUNDAMENTAL LIBERTIES OF THE INDIVIDUAL AND THE DEMOCRATIC FORM OF GOVERNMENT. OUR RECENT ELECTIONS HAVE DEMONSTRATED THE MATURITY OF OUR PEOPLE AND THEIR FEARLESS INTEREST IN THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE THE REPRESENTATIVES WHO SHOULD HOLD THE REINS OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE COUNTRY'S GOVERNANCE. MY COLLEAGUES AND I ARE CONSCIOUS THAT A HEAVY BURDEN LIES ON OUR SHOULDERS IF WE ARE TO REDEEM THE PLEDGE TO GIVE TO OUR PEOPLE A BETTER LIFE IN A WAY WHICH GUARANTEES THEM FULL FREEDOM AND SOCIAL JUSTICE.

3. INDIA HAS ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT THOUGH THE CHALLENGE OF GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT IS PRIMARILY ONE FOR US AND OUR PEOPLE, WE CANNOT DO SO IN ISOLATION. WE HAVE, THEREFORE, ALWAYS CHERISHED THE POSSIBILITY OF DEVELOPING BENEFICIAL COOPERATION WITH ALL FRIENDLY CONFIDENTIAL.

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NEW DE 04701 031002Z

COUNTRIES ON THE BASIS OF DIGNITY AND EQUALITY. THOUGH INDIA AND THE UNITED STATES ARE GEOGRAPHICALLY APART OUR RELATIONS HAVE RANGED OVER A VAST FIELD OF COMMERCE, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL, INTELLECTUAL EXCHANGE AND BENEFICIAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION. UNITED STATES HAS BEEN IN A VERY SIGNIFICANT WAY A PARTNER IN OUR OWN QUEST FOR SELF-RELIANCE. WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT WE CAN DEEPEN AND EXTEND OUR BILATERAL COOPERATION AND IN DOING SO STRENGTHEN INTER-

NATIONAL STABILITY AND CONTRIBUTE TO THE CORRECTION OF THE GRAVE IMBALANCES IN THE WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER. THE POTENTIALS OF OUR RELATIONS CAN BE OF POSITIVE BENEFIT AND IN NO WAY NEED BE REPUGNANT TO THE INTERESTS OF EITHER OF OUR TWO COUNTRIES OR OUR COMMON CONCERN FOR WORLD PIEACE. YOURS SINCERELY, MORARJI DESAI. UNQUOTE

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